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# 2015 Greenhouse Grower Top 100 Growers: Reading The Rankings

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Just after *Greenhouse Grower's* Top 100 Growers report published last year, we found out about a few key acquisitions that we knew would really shake things up in 2015. We were right — the tradition of our annual

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rankings remix stands, and the changes are noteworthy.

## **Optimism Is Evident, With Grower Expansion Across The Board**

*Greenhouse Grower's* annual Top 100 List ranks the largest U.S. growers by total square feet of environmentally controlled greenhouse space, although this year, we have also listed shade and field acreage, to give perspective on how large these operations are beyond the greenhouse. In total, the 2015 list represents 228,906,001 environmentally controlled square feet of U.S. production, a 5 percent increase over 2014.



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Looking more closely, growers within the top 10 list are reporting some very significant growth:

- Color Spot Holdings says its operation has grown to 21,100,000, as a result of acquiring Color Star's Sanger, Texas, facility, and building an additional 150,000 square feet of greenhouses.
- Costa Farms slid into the No. 2 position, reporting its square footage at more than 15 million square feet, up from 9.5 million in 2014.
- Altman Plants has grown by more than 1 million square feet in the past year.
- Bell Nursery's acquisition of Blue Ridge Growers in Virginia and Brentwood Farms in North Carolina put the operation up to 7,400,000, trading spaces with Metrolina Greenhouses, which also grew by 100,000 square feet over the past year.
- Color Point taking over Mid-American Growers last spring brought the operation from No. 74 up to No. 8. Beyond the top 10 players, a number of growers have undergone huge growth within the past year.
- Olson's Greenhouse Gardens (No. 15) grew by more than 500,000 square feet, during its second straight year of major expansion. The operation reported 1,515,141 in 2013.
- Tagawa Greenhouse Enterprises has gained nearly 3 million square feet of production.
- Headstart Nursery is reporting growth to 2,400,000, up from 1.5 million square feet in 2014.
- Last year's newcomer, Bela Flor Nurseries, is expanding rapidly, as well. It's up by more than 500,000 square feet.
- Riverview Flower Farm has grown by more than 700,000 square feet, placing at No. 33 from No. 70 in 2014.
- Garden State Growers is showing growth to 1,742,400 from 1,481,040.
- Henry Mast Greenhouses/Masterpiece Flower Co. has grown more than 300,000 square feet in the past year.

All told, 26 growers reported that their operation grew



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between 2014 and 2015. Several growers reduced their production over the past year, as well, and while some operations' downsized numbers were significant, most were slight and probably typical of the give-and-take in the horticulture industry.

### Change Is Constant

We have some new names among the Top 100 Growers this year. *Greenhouse Grower* extends a warm welcome to Botany Lane Greenhouses in Colorado, GroLink Plant Co. in California, Tidal Creek Growers in Maryland and Micandy Garden Greenhouses in Michigan.

It's likely we'll see more changes among the Top 100 sooner rather than later, and as *Greenhouse Grower* continues to refine our list, we are certainly open to suggestions. Let us know how we can make this report a better resource — for growers and allied trades.

Meanwhile, congratulations to all of *Greenhouse Grower's* Top 100 Growers!

### 2015 Greenhouse Grower Top 100 Grower List

2015 Rank	2014 Rank	Company	State	2015 U.S. Environmentally Controlled (Square Feet)	U.S. Acreage (Shade Houses)	U.S. Acreage (Field Production)
1	1	Color Spot Nurseries	CA	21,100,000	204	2,703
2	3	Costa Farms	FL	15,071,760	747	1,392
3	2	Altman Plants	CA	11,596,852	62	400
4	4	Kurt Weiss Greenhouses	NY	9,238,232	30	89
5	5	Rocket Farms	CA	8,305,120*		
6	7	Bell Nursery USA	MD	7,400,000		
7	6	Metrolina Greenhouses	NC	7,000,000		184
8	74	Color Point	KY	4,800,000		
9	8	Green Circle Growers	OH	4,573,800		20
10	10	The Sun Valley Group	CA	4,000,000*		

11	11	Delray Plants Co.	FL	3,868,116	119	20
12	12	Speedling	FL	3,684,000		
13	13	Milgro Nursery	UT	3,500,000*		
14	15	Ivy Acres	NY	3,383,970*		
15	21	Olson's Greenhouse Gardens	UT	3,079,531	0	37
16	16	Kerry's Nursery Inc.	FL	3,000,000*		
17	18	Floral Plant Growers	WI	2,826,360		6
18t	19	Matsui Nursery	CA	2,800,000		
18t	16	Woodburn Nursery and Azaleas	OR	2,800,000	2	
20	9	Aris Horticulture	OH	2,631,460	65	
21	20	Dallas Johnson Greenhouses	IA	2,600,000		
22t	22	Bay City Flowers	CA	2,500,000*		
22t	22	Smith Gardens	WA	2,500,000		60
24t	43	Headstart Nursery	CA	2,400,000		15
24t	26	Tagawa Greenhouse Enterprises	CO	2,400,000		
26t	28	Bela Flor Nurseries	MO	2,395,800		
26t	24	Wenke Greenhouses	MI	2,395,800	1	
28	25	Northwest Horticulture	WA	2,178,000*		
29	27	N.G. Heimos Greenhouses Inc.	IL	2,068,000	1	27
30	30	Bergen's Greenhouse	MN	1,916,640	0	
31	32	Colorama Wholesale Nursery	CA	1,890,000	9	150
32	31	Dan Schantz Farm	PA	1,814,381		15
33	70	Riverview Flower Farm	FL	1,785,960	32	15
34	33	Battlefield Farms	VA	1,784,320	1	23
35	29	Plant Marketing	WI	1,770,279		2
36	45	Garden State Growers	NJ	1,742,400		125
37	34	Valley Flowers	CA	1,740,000		
38	36	Hines Growers, Inc.	CA	1,700,000*		
39	39	Dewar Nurseries	FL	1,691,625	41	203
40	37	Young's Plant Farm	AL	1,645,000		34
41	38	Ocean Breeze	CA	1,614,000*		

## International

42	40	Westland Floral Company	CA	1,600,000*		
43	58	Grower Direct Farms	CT	1,565,000		8
44	41	Post Gardens	MI	1,527,000		
45	35	DeLeon's Bromeliads	FL	1,500,939	1	
46t	42	Clearwater Nursery	CA	1,500,000	5	3
46t	43	Kawahara Nurseries	CA	1,500,000*		
48	50	Van Wingerden International	NC	1,450,548		12
49	46	Dan and Jerry's Greenhouse	MN	1,445,000*		
50	48	Bailey Nurseries	MN	1,437,490		2,300
51t	65	Henry Mast Greenhouses/Masterpiece Flower Co.	MI	1,420,000		9
51t	47	Rockwell Farms	NC	1,420,000		10
53	49	Willoway Nurseries	OH	1,418,340		850
54t	50	Kitayama Brothers	CA	1,400,000		5
54t	50	Panzer Nursery	OR	1,400,000	2	
56	53	Four Star Greenhouses	MI	1,378,801		
57	54	Heartland Growers	IN	1,350,840*		
58	56	Aldershot of New Mexico	NM	1,317,000*		
59	55	Nash Greenhouses	MI	1,300,000		
60	65	Lucas Greenhouses	NJ	1,212,500		30
61t	63	Armstrong Growers	CA	1,200,000	15	103
61t	59t	Richardson Brothers Greenhouses	IL	1,200,000		
61t	59t	Young's Nursery and Greenhouse	TN	1,200,000*		
64	79	Bob's Market and Greenhouses	WV	1,135,000	3	
65t	68	Corso's Perennials	OH	1,100,000		14
65t	65	Hillister (part of Seville Farms)	TX	1,100,000*		
67	69	Sawyer Nursery	MI	1,059,076*		
68	70	Alex R. Masson	KS	1,045,440*		
69	72	Johannes Flowers	CA	1,043,360*		

70	73	Maria Gardens Greenhouses	OH	1,001,820*		
71t	74	Kent's Bromeliad Nursery	CA	1,000,000*		
71t	59	Van de Wetering Greenhouses	NY	1,000,000		6
71t	57	Welby Gardens Co./Hardy Boy Plants-Hardystarts	CO	1,000,000		8
74	77	Farmers' West Flowers and Bouquets	CA	958,320*		
75	78	Hart's Nursery	OR	940,000*	21	
76	86	South Central Growers	TN	921,115		8
77	64	Dramm and Echter	CA	920,000		10
78	80	Petitti Garden Cente/Casa Verde Growers	OH	895,000		5
79	81	White's Nursery and Greenhouses	VA	860,000		
80	82	Twixwood Nursery	MI	851,000	0	
81t	83	B and H Flowers	CA	850,000*		
81t	83	Kube-Pak	NJ	850,000	0	6
83	NR	Botany Lane Greenhouses	CO	827,640	1	4
84t	87	American Color	VA	784,080		20
84t	89	Plainview Growers	NJ	784,080		10
86	88	Olive Hill Greenhouses	CA	760,000		
87	89	California Pajarosa	CA	750,000	2	4
88t	91	Esbenshades Greenhouse	PA	740,000*		
88t	92	Plants Unlimited	MI	740,000		
90t	NR	Grolink Plant Company		700,000	6	3
90t	93	Knox Nursery	FL	700,000		
92	94	Parks Brothers Farm	AR	675,000		<1
93	95	Sedan Floral	KS	672,604		
94	96	Myriad Flowers International	CA	653,400	5	12
95t	NR	Ever-Bloom	CA	650,000		
95t	97	Loop's Nursery and Greenhouses	FL	650,000		3